

- 1. What was / has been your occupation before entering politics?** Currently, I am a full-time teacher actively working at an independent school in Kanata. I teach Environmental Science, Senior Geography, Outdoor Education, and am also the Grade 10-12 Learning Support Teacher. My previous career was as an outdoor adventure professional. I also run a tourism business here in Ottawa. Ottawa City Rafting. www.ottawacityrafting.com. Yes I am incredibly busy. Good training for a politician.
- 2. Do you live in the riding and, if so, how long has it been your home?** I have lived in the riding for 15 years. My "now" wife and I moved here in 2004. We live in the Britannia neighborhood and both our daughters have been raised in this amazing community. This is also where my business is located operating from Britannia Beach.
- 3. What has been your main involvement with your community outside of work (volunteer activities, etc.)?** I feel I have a strong connection to the community displayed through action. I started a business locally because I wanted to connect the river to our community in a way that was tangible. We employ about 15 young people every summer, many of them local highschool graduates. I also worked closely with Dovercourt to run a number of summer camps that develop childrens passion for nature. These camps have been some of Dovercourts most popular programs. I also started Friends of Mud Lake to help our community have a place to communicate the beauty of this location. As well I am currently on the committee trying to bring a Winter Trail to Britannia similar to the SJAM.
- 4. In your life what event, or book, or speech, or song or even TV show has made the biggest impression on you and your political thinking? Why?** I have never been overly political in my mindset. Recently, however, David Meslin's book Teardown: Rebuilding Democracy from the Ground Up truly impacted my perspective on the political system here in Canada and how we really need to make some changes. In particular, the idea that our first past the post system by its nature creates a negative political and social climate. To change society we need to change the system.
- 5. What previous politician, (alive or dead, but not currently in parliament) is a role model for you?** As far as politicians go I would say Nathan Cullen was a great parliamentarian, who I believe represented what I would wish to emulate. We were fellow colleagues at Mountain Equipment Coop in Vancouver before we changed career paths and as a result, I followed his career closely. Elizabeth May is also a role model as I truly admire her ability to transform the Green Party into a truly national party with common sense broad-based platform that also remains true to its advocacy for the

Environment. As well she actually knows how to laugh at herself, something I personally value in a leader.

6. **What policy in your party's platform do you think matters most to the people in your riding?** I believe Climate Change is the issue of the day. Though every person depending on their geography and demographic profile has issues close to them, the climate and the health of our planet is of concern to most of the people I talk to. My constituents I believe understand that the Green Party is truly committed to making the changes necessary to support our economy as we combat climate change and transition our economy for the future.
7. **Recent polls suggest many Canadians are disillusioned with politics. If elected, what would you do to address those concerns?** I believe that people are disillusioned with the system because at its heart a first past the post electoral system creates a: the winner takes all, us against them, adversarial relationship between parties and candidates. As a result of the system this is how our politician's role model behaviour. This, in turn, is reflected in society. With electoral reform that includes both ranked ballots and proportional representation, we will remove the negativity from the political system because winning will involve a win-win scenario. In fact, you will need the support of the other parties supporters. In addition, voters also need to feel that their vote has meaning. proportional representation means that everyone's vote will count. This will be my priority. As well I also believe local issues are very important. I think any candidate that doesn't work on the issues in the community and simply checks in at the national level really does not deserve to represent their riding. I will work hard to support issues that are local.